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MEMORIALS OF COL. JEHU EYRE.

CONTRIBUTED AND EDITED BY

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Col. Eyre was born in Burlington, N. J., January 21, 1738. His father, George Eyre, of Nottinghamshire, England, came to America in 1727, and settled in Burlington, N. J., and married Mary Smith of that place in 1730. He had four sons, three of whom, Manuel, Jehu, and Benjamin George, were early and active on the side of liberty and freedom during the troubles between these Colonies and the mother country.

The family of Eyre, founded in England by Baron William le Eyr, a Norman, who went with William the Conqueror over from Normandy, and who lost his leg at the battle of Hastings, 1066 (in commemoration of which the crest of the family has always been a leg in armor, couped and spurred), became quite a large and noble family, intermarrying with some of the most prominent houses of England. It has developed many distinguished and titled men, and to this day, although extinct in the peerage, is a well known and very highly respected family in Great Britain.

George Eyre, of Nottinghamshire, who came to this country, was a lineal descendant in this family; he being the great-grandson of Sir Gervaise Eyre, of Newbold and Keneton, county of Derby, and his wife Mary, daughter of George Neville, Esq., of Thorney, Nottinghamshire. With a staid, steady determination for prosperity, and seeing in the near future the commercial progress of this country, and the necessity of vessels to carry on the increasing trade with the mother land, George Eyre sent his two sons, Manuel and Jehu, to Philadelphia, or rather to Kensington, Philadelphia County, the then ship-building place on the Delaware, to

learn the trade of shipwright with Richard Wright, the leading ship and boat builder of that day.

In 1760 Jehu, then 23 years of age, having learned his business thoroughly, was engaged by the government to take command of a party of boat builders to go to Fort Pitt to build bateaux for the navigation of the Ohio River and its tributaries running in that part of the country, lately captured from the French and Indians.

Having prepared everything for the journey to the then considered Far West, the party, consisting of the following persons, set out on the 22d day of May with a wagon containing their tools, baggage, and camping utensils, and marched to their place of destination in stages, as noted in a pocket diary which Jehu Eyre kept, as follows:—

Names of the party for Fort Pitt,

John Midwinter,	Friend Streeton,
Isaac Middleton,	Thomas Smith,
Samuel Duenshear [Devon-	John Barter,
shire?],	Daniel Rambo,
William Flood,	David Row,
Daniel Delaney,	James Tull,
Nathaniel Goforth,	Wm. McAllister,
George Careless,	and
Henry Bragg,	George ¹ (the sawyer).

Jehu Eyre's Diary.

May 22, 1760. Set out from Philad^a about 12 of the clock, and reached the Sign of the Plow, about 13 miles that day.

23d. Friday the 23d we got to the Sign of the Stage Wagon, about 29 miles that day.

24th. We crossed the Conestoga about two of the clock in the afternoon. We got into Lancaster about 3 of the clock, and there we staid all that night. About 24 miles that day.

¹ It appears that Mr. Eyre did not know the last name of this man, for in his accounts with him for money, goods, etc., paid him he calls him always George the sawyer.

25th. Set out from Lancaster about 9 of the clock on Sunday the 25th, and got to the Sign of the Plow, about 21 miles that day. At Lancaster drew provisions, but no rum.

26th. Monday y^e 26 day we got to the Pyne [Pine] ford, about 9 of the clock. It is about 10 miles from Harris' ferry. We crossed Sweet arrow [Swatara] about 10 of the clock. We got 7 quarts of bonny clabber for our dinner for 14 pence. Got to Harris' ferry about 4 o'clock, and crossed the Susquehanna about 5 o'clock, and reached to Tobias Henrick's [Hendricks] about 3 miles from the Susquehanna—36 miles in the day.

27th. We got to Carlisle about 12 of the clock on Tuesday. It is about 15 miles from Harris' Ferry, and there we staid all night.

28th. Wednesday the 28th we staid all that day at Carlisle.

29th. Thursday y^e 29 we set out from Carlisle about 6 of the clock, and got to Shippistown¹ about 4 of the clock, and there we staid all night. It is about 21 miles from Carlisle.

30th. Friday the 30th we set out from Shippistown, and about 4 miles from London² Tom Smith and myself milked a cow and made a good meal. We got to London about 5 o'clock. It is about 26 miles from Shippistown. About 2 in from London we staid all night in the woods.

31st. Saturday y^e 31 we got to a cabin in the woods, and there we staid all night. It is about 3 miles from Fort Littleton,³ and from Fort to Fort about 18 miles.

June 1st. June y^e 1st, Sunday, we got to Sidling hill, about 8 miles from Fort Littleton. There we pitched our tent, and then we staid all night in the woods.

2d. Monday we crossed Sidling hill on the Blue Mountains about 8 of the clock, and 10 miles from Littleton. We crossed

¹ So pronounced, now Shippensburg.

² Fort Loudon, Franklin Co. In 1756 it was called Loudon town, in which year the Fort was built. See *History of Franklin Co., Pa.*, I. H. McCauley.—Ed.

³ In the N. E. part of the present Fulton Co. It was named for Lord George Lyttelton, who, in 1755, was Chancellor of the Exchequer.—Ed.

the Juniata about 6 o'clock. It is about 18 miles from Fort Littleton. We got about four miles from the Juniata. We got about 15 miles that day.

3d. Tuesday y^e 3d we got to Bedford¹ about 12 of the clock. It is about 16 miles from the Juniata. We staid all night in the Hospital.

4th. Wednesday y^e 4 we staid all that day and did nothing.

5th. Thursday y^e 5 we went to work at a shed for Captain Ourry.²

6th. Friday y^e 6 it rained all the forenoon, and the afternoon we went to work at the shed.

7th. Saturday y^e 7 we were at work at the Stable.

8th. Sunday y^e 8 we worked at the sheds and making fence.

9th. Monday y^e 9 we did nothing but walk about.

10th. Tuesday y^e 10 we went to work at the storehouses in the Fort. They have six six-pounders in that Fort.

11th. Wednesday y^e 11 we went to work out in the woods to cut rafters for a log house.

12th. Thursday y^e 12 we did nothing at all but walk about.

13th. Friday y^e 13 went to work in the woods to cut logs for the sawyers.

14th. Saturday y^e 14 went to work in the woods to cut logs for the sawyers.

15th. Sunday y^e 15 we did nothing, but I went in the woods a gunning, and I caught a turtle.³

16th. Monday y^e 16 we did nothing. We cooked the turtle, and all our company had a good dinner.

17th. Tuesday y^e 17 we started from Fort Bedford, and got to the Shawnees Cabin; and there we encamped and staid all night, 10 miles that day. It was a very rainy night.

18th. Wednesday y^e 18 we set out on our march. It was a rainy day, and got to the top of the Allegheny Mountain, 8 miles that day.

¹ Fort Bedford, formerly Raystown.—ED.

² Of the Royal American Regt. His letters in the possession of the Historical Society are signed L^s Ourry.—ED.

³ No doubt a snapper, P. D. K.

19th. Thursday y^e 19 we set out upon our march, and reached to Colonel Armstrong's breast works, and there we encamped all night. About 11 miles that day.

20th. Friday y^e 20 we set out on our march, and crossed Stony Creek about 6 of the clock, there is a small Fort here. From Fort to Fort is 32 miles. We got to Drowned, or Kick-and-a-Poke run that day. 10 miles that day.

21st. Saturday ye 21 we set out on our march, and reached Fort Ligonier. About 14 miles that day. From Fort to Fort 21 miles. They have got there two mortars, and three cowhorns,¹ and three six-pounders.

22d. Sunday y^e 22 we did nothing but walk about and take our pleasure.

23d. Monday y^e 23d we [drew] 25 Axes.

24th. Tuesday 24th we loaded all the wagons, and set off from Fort Ligonier, and got to the four-mile run; and there we staid all night.

25th. Wednesday y^e 25 we went to work at making a bridge over the four-mile run; and there we staid all night.

26th. Thursday 26 we finished off the bridge, and staid all that night.

27th. Friday 27 we set out on our march; and about 15 miles that day.

28th. Saturday y^e 28 we got to the Block house about 4 o'clock. It is about 39 miles from Ligonier. We got four miles farther than the block house that day. 20 miles that day.

29th. Sunday y^e 29 we set out on our march, and 14 miles from Pittsburg we found a dead man close by the road. We got 10 miles that day.

30th. Monday y^e 30 we got into Fort Pitts about 12 of the clock, and we did nothing that day.

July 1. Tuesday y^e 1 we went to work at building batteaux.

4th. Friday y^e 4 we drew lots for to go up the river against the french fort, and it fell out upon Lum [Denn?] and Brag,

¹ Cohorns.

and Freats [Fritz, Fred Streeter?] and Tull, but John Midwinter went in Brag's stead.

7th. Monday y^e 7 they set off, and went over the river Alleghany.¹

10th. Thursday 10 we went to work at the bomb proof. It is about one hundred and eighty feet long, and twenty-four broad.

11th. Friday y^e 11 we were at work.

12th. Saturday y^e 12 we were at work at the bomb proof.

13th. Sunday 13 we were at work at the bomb proof.

14th. Monday y^e 14 we were at work at the bomb proof.

15th. Tuesday y^e 15 we were at work at the bomb proof.

16th. Wednesday y^e 16 we were at work at the bomb proof a caulking of it.

17th. Thursday y^e 17 we were a caulking of the bomb proof.

18th. Friday y^e 18 we were a making of punchings. [Punchcons.]

19th. Saturday y^e 19 we were a making of punchings.

20th. Sunday y^e 20 we were a caulking of the bomb proof.

21st. Monday y^e 21 we were at work at the bomb proof.

22d. Tuesday y^e 22 we were at work hewing timber for a scow.

23d. Wednesday y^e 23 I was sick, and did no work.

24th. Thursday y^e 24 I was at work hewing of timbers for the scow.

25th. Friday 25 we were at work a hewing of timber for the bateaux.

26th. Saturday y^e 26 was a caulking of a bateau, and we drew lots who should go to Wenango [Venango], and it fell out upon Samuel Deninshear [Duenshear], but they made Daniel Dillany [Delaney] go in his stead.

27th. Sunday y^e 27 was at work at building of a scow.

¹ This party probably accompanied a detachment of five hundred and fifty men, which a letter of Col. James Burd, written from Fort Pitt July 15th, informs us had gone under the command of Col. Bouquet to take possession of Presqu' Isle. A journal of the march will be found in vol. ii. PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE, p. 149.

28th. Monday y^e 28 was at work at the scow.

29th. Tuesday y^e 29 Bragg and myself went to work at building of a bateau. There were 13 bateaux set off for to go to Wenango to-day.

30th. Wednesday y^e 30 we were at work at the bateaux.

31st. Thursday y^e 31 we were at work at the bateaux. There was a company of men set out to-day for to go to Wenango.

August 1. August y^e 1 we were at work at the bateaux.

2^d. Saturday y^e 2 we were at work at the bateaux. There was a catfish caught that was four foot long, and 10½ inches across his eyes.

3^d. Sunday y^e 3 we were at work at the bateaux.

4th. Monday y^e 4 we were at work at the bateaux.

5th. Tuesday y^e 5 was at work at the bateaux. There was a great many Indians came in to-day, and the guns were fired for joy.

6th. Wednesday y^e 6 were at work at the bateaux, and Thursday—and Friday—and Saturday.

10th. Sunday y^e 10 we had a holiday, and all that was in the garrison were reviewed, and all our names were called over.

11th. Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 we were at work at the bateaux.

13th. Wednesday y^e 13 we were at work at the bateaux, and the Indian treaty begun to-day.

14th. Thursday y^e 14 we were at work at the bateaux; and the bateaux came down from Wenango to-day; and the men that were at Wenango had not ate no bread for five days before the bateaux got there.

15th. Friday y^e 15 we were at work at the bateaux.

16th. Saturday y^e 16 we were at work at the bateaux.

17th. Sunday y^e 17 we were a caulking of the bateaux for to go to Venango.

18th. Monday y^e 18 we were at work at the bateaux, and about 10 bateaux set off to Venango. The Indian treaty broke up, and a great many presents made to them, blankets and coats and gold and silver laced hats, and ruffle shirts and

kettles, and rum, which all doth amount to about two hundred pounds.¹

19th. Tuesday y° 19 we were at work at the bateaux.

20th. Wednesday y° 20 we were at work at the bateaux. Over the river Alleghany where the Indians encamped, one Indian killed another, and the other Indians were in search for to kill him; for it is their law. It was a Dalloway [Delaware] killed a Mohawk.

21st. Thursday y° 21 were at work at the bateaux. There was a catfish caught that weighed $94\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

22d. Friday y° 22 we were at work at the bateaux.

23d. Saturday y° 23 we were at work at the bateaux.

24th. Sunday y° 24 we were at work at the bateaux. In the woods where the carpenters are at work there was a party of Indians came and took three of their horses, and carried them off.

25th. Monday y° 25 we finished 4 bateaux

26th. Tuesday y° 26 Samuel Deninshear and myself went over the river Minongohela to cut knees for bateaux.

27th. Wednesday and Thursday and Friday we were a cutting of knees for batteaux, and Saturday and Sunday y° 31 we were a cutting of knees for bateaux.

September 1. September y° 1, it was Monday. Samuel Deninshear and myself went into the woods to cut knees, but instead of cutting of knees, we set off through the woods to go to Braddock's field, and on our journey we met with several Indian huts which the Indians had left; and when we came to the place where they crossed of the river Monongahela, we saw a great many men's bones along the shore. We kept along the road about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, where the first engagement begun, where there are men's bones lying about as thick as the leaves do on the ground; for they are so thick that one lies on top of another for about a half a mile in length, and about one hundred yards in breadth. There was a tree cut in half with one of the cannon balls. The tree was about 2 feet and a half over; and the place is about 15 miles from

¹ For minutes of this conference see vol. iii. *Penna. Archives*, p. 744.

Fort Pitt. Where Major Grant had his defeat is about one mile from Fort Pitt.

2d. Tuesday y^e 2 I was a caulking of a bateau for Mr. Sheppard.

3d. Wednesday and Thursday and Friday we were at work in the woods. Friday we came home to the Fort.

6th. Saturday and Sunday and Monday I was lame in my hand, and did not do anything. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday I was lame.

11th. Thursday y^e 11 three Indians brought in a Cherokee's scalp (scalp), which they got at fort Detroit.

Friday and Saturday I was at work at the bateaux. This day fifteen bateaux set off to Venango with provisions.

14th. Sunday y^e 14 we were at work at the bateaux.

15th. Monday y^e 15 we went in the woods to cut logs for a storehouse, and we got enough cut.

26th. On Friday y^e 26 the bateaux came down from Venango.

28th. Sunday y^e 28 we are cutting of logs for another storehouse.

October 1 & 2. October y^e 1 and 2 I was caulking of a scow. This day we had great rejoycing for Montreal being taken. For which we had the guns fired, and three dozen of sky rockets at night.

3d. This day we were working at Grant's Hill hewing of logs.

4th. Saturday y^e 4 we went to work at a bomb proof in the fort. It is about one hundred and eighty foot long.

5th. Sunday y^e 5 we were at work at the bomb proof.

6th. Monday y^e 6 and Tuesday we were at work at the bomb proof.

Wednesday and Thursday and Friday and Saturday and Sunday we were at work at the bomb proof.

Sunday there was a party of men came down from Piss-kill,¹ which they were 12 days a coming down.

Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday we were a caulking of the bomb proof.

¹ Presqu' Isle, now Erie.

17th. Friday y° 17 we got orders to go to Pisskill.

18th. Saturday y° 18 we crossed Alleganey river about 11 o'clock, and we got about 4 miles that day. We had a very rainy night.

19th. Sunday y° 19 we got about 14 miles that day. We came to an old french encampment.

20th. Monday y° 20th we got about 22 miles that day. It is a very barren country; nothing but hills and hollows; no timber on the land for hundreds of acres. We came by several french encampments.

21st. Tuesday y° 21 we got about 24 miles that day. Very swampy land.

22d. Wednesday y° 22 we came across about 10 Indians who were a hunting. We bought two quarters of venison for 4 shillings. We got about 20 miles that day.

23d. Thursday y° 23 we got to Venango. There was an old french fort. We have got a block house built there. We crossed the French creek that day. We got about 20 miles that day.

24th. Friday y° 24 we came to the Cattawa town. There are about 25 houses there, all Dalloway [Delaware?] Indians live there. We got about 20 miles that day. We had a very rainy day and night. The Indians stole two of our horses, but they gave them to us again.

25th. Saturday y° 25 we went through 2 of the Indian towns. We crossed three very bad creeks. We got about 12 miles that day. Very low swampy land.

26th. Sunday y° 26 we crossed the French river [Creek] on rafts. We got about 8 miles that day.

27th. Monday y° 27 we crossed 4 creeks. We got about 12 miles that day. Very swampy land.

28th. Tuesday y° 28 we crossed Le Boeuf creek, and we got there about 10 o'clock. Le Boeuf is an old french fort, but we have got a block house and stockade fort there. There is a lake about half a mile from the fort, it is about one mile across.

29th. Wednesday y° 29 we set off from Le Boeuf to go to Pisskill, and there was a settler that came up along with us,

was robbed on the road by three frenchmen. We got to Pisskill about 5 o'clock. It is about 15 miles from fort to fort. There is a bridge on the road 10 miles long.¹

30th. Thursday y° 30 we went in the woods to cut logs for bateaux. Pisskill stands on rising ground, and there is a fine block house built. There is a fine prospect of the Lake Erie. This lake is about 70 leagues across.

31. Friday y° 31 we went in the woods to cut timber for bateaux.

November 1. November y° 1 we were a cutting of timber for bateaux.

2d. Sunday y° 2 we were a making of oars for Major Rodgers² whale boats.

3d. Monday y° 3 we were at work at making oars.

4th. Tuesday y° 4 we were at work at the bateaux. Major Rodgers set off to Fort Detroit, for to take possession of it, with about one hundred and fifty Rangers, and about one hundred Royal Americans.

5th. Wednesday 5—Thursday y° 6, and Friday y° 7, and Saturday y° 8 we were at work at the bateaux.

9th. Sunday and Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday we were making of oars for the bateaux. A party of Major Rodgers' men went off to Fort Detroit with provisions.

Thursday and Friday and Saturday and Sunday and Monday we were at work at the bateaux.

18th. Tuesday y° 18 we launched two bateaux, and they set off to Niagara to fetch provisions, for we had only one day's provisions in the fort. This day we were forced to kill Colonel Cockerill's milk cow, for we had no meat in the garrison.

18th. Tuesday y° 18 set off Colonel Messer³ and Colonel Cockerill to go to Fort Pitt.

19th. Wednesday 19 we were at work at the bateaux.

20th. Thursday y° 20 I went over to the Peninsula to cut knees. It is a point of land that runs out about 5 miles long,

¹ This was a corduroy road, and existed within the recollection of persons now living.

² The well-known Major Robert Rodgers.

³ Hugh Mercer, afterwards General Mercer.

and about one mile broad. The French have had two large store houses there, and a big dwelling house.

21st. Friday and Saturday we were at work at the bateaux.

Sunday and Monday we were at work at the bateaux, and finished of the sixth.

25th. Tuesday y^e 25 we made oars for the bateaux. This day we had a fine feast upon a bullock's liver.

Wednesday we set off from Pisskill, and we got to Le Boeuf. It is about 15 miles. There was a Corporal and six men came from Niagara to Pisskill, and they were seven days without any victuals.

Thursday we were a building of two bateaux.

28th. Friday y^e 27 [28?] we set off from Le Boeuf, and Sunday we came to the Cuscologo¹ town, and there we bought venison and bread of them.

December. Monday y^e 1 [2?] we got to Venango, and there we drew two days of flour for to take us to Fort Pitt. They had no meat for to give.

Thursday y^e 4 [5?] we got to Fort Pitt. We were three days coming down.

¹ On a manuscript map, in the collections of the Historical Society, the name is given Custalogas. The location of the town was on the west side of the river Le Bouef, or French Creek, about half way between Forts Venango and Le Boeuf.